



Tips for Taking the Certified Pediatric Nurse Exam

The goal of the PNCB is for you to successfully pass the Certified Pediatric Nurse (CPN) Exam. Your education and clinical experiences should be the basis for your preparation, but here are some additional suggestions.

General information:

1. Exams will be similar based on the CPN Content Outline found at www.pncb.org.
2. Remember to read the exam items carefully, and choose the BEST answer. The answers are based on national guidelines, practice and textbooks and may not reflect local trends.
3. All exams are scored by computer and then the results are verified manually by a psychometrician. See our web site for an explanation of scoring.

Study guide:

1. Take time to review your results in each category of the content outline, and reserve study time for the weak areas.
2. Watch for regional conferences that sponsor a CPN review course, i.e. The Society of Pediatric Nurses (SPN).
3. If you work in a pediatric specialty area, review general medical/surgical pediatric nursing through study or cross-training.

Textbooks recommended by educators and successful examinees include:

(The PNCB does not endorse nor have a proprietary relationship with any publishing company.)

1. Child Health Nursing: Partnering with Children and Families (2006) Authors: Ball & Bindler. Publisher: Prentice Hall.
2. Lippincott Review Series: Pediatric Nursing (2004) Author: Mary E. Muscari.
3. Pediatric Nursing Certification Review (2006) Authors: J. Selekman & L. Jukubik. Publisher: Society of Pediatric Nurses (www.pedsnurses.org).
4. Straight A's in Pediatric Nursing (2003) Author: Springhouse. Publisher: Lippincott.
5. Wong's Nursing Care of Infants and Children, 8th ed. (2007) Authors: M. Hochenberry, D. Wilson, M. Winkelstein, and N. Kline. Publisher: Elsevier.

CPN Exam Prep & Test Taking Strategies Modules

The PNCB offers a CPN Exam Prep Test at www.pncb.org. This unique practice testing tool offers:

- A computer-based simulation of the types of questions included in the CPN Exam
- Five accredited continuing education contact hours upon completion
- Help in becoming familiar with the presentation and structure of CPN Exam questions
- In-depth rationale for all right and wrong answers
- Questions related to content areas on the exam
- New version released 8/12/2009

The PNCB's Test-Taking Strategies module for CE covers all phases of exam readiness, from dealing with test anxiety to creating a study plan and performing well on exam day, plus detailed tactics for analyzing and answering multiple-choice exam questions.

Please check our web site www.pncb.org for information about these preparatory aids.